

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:02 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Honoring the 2007 Stanley Cup Champion Detroit Red Wings
October 14, 2008

Please be seated—not you all. *[Laughter]* It is a pleasure to welcome the Stanley Cup Champion Detroit Red Wings back to the White House. Yes, please hold your applause. *[Laughter]* I am looking forward to getting a jersey, as opposed to an octopus. *[Laughter]*

In 2002, the Red Wings were the first NHL team I hosted for a Stanley Cup ceremony. Turns out they are the last team I'll be hosting. *[Laughter]* You guys may be back next year, but not me. *[Laughter]* So I welcome you here.

The race for the Cup was thrilling. You started the season on a tear; you ended with a league-leading 115 points. In the playoffs, you beat Nashville, swept Colorado, dusted Dallas. *[Laughter]* In game five of the finals, you were just 34 seconds from raising the Cup when the Pittsburgh Penguins scored to tie the game, then scored in triple overtime to extend the series. But you did not get discouraged. You were determined, and you won. And we congratulate you for winning a very, very hard cup to win, the Stanley Cup.

I want to thank the Ilitch family for joining us. Give Mom and Dad my very best. I want to welcome and congratulate Ken Holland, general manager, the Detroit club; Mike Babcock, the head coach; the commissioner. Mr. Commissioner, welcome. I'm proud you're here.

Carl Levin, Senator from the great State of Michigan, representing all the Red Wing fans who have joined us today. Senator, I'm glad you're here. Members of my administration, who should be working, but instead are—*[laughter]*. Of course, we welcome the players, the coaches, the personnel, and all the fans.

I want to thank the members of the Armed Forces for joining us. We are proud of your service to the United States of America.

And finally, it is a pleasure to welcome future Stanley Cuppers, the Auburn *[Ashburn]** Xtreme Hockey Club. I guess “extreme” means extremely good. *[Laughter]* Anyway, we're glad you're here. Thanks for coming. I know the players are thrilled that you've come as well.

The Stanley Cup is the oldest trophy in professional sports. It's also very difficult to win. It takes 4 rounds in the playoffs—16 wins in as many as 28 games—before an NHL player can skate and hold the Cup. That's a lot of work after a regular season.

The players here met the grueling test, and they set some impressive records along the way. Johan Franzen, affectionately known as the Mule—*[laughter]*. Where's Johan? Yes. *[Laughter]* I call Johan “Sir.” *[Laughter]* He broke Gordie Howe's franchise record for the most game-winning goals in a single month, the team record for the most goals in a single playoff series, and he set the league record for most goals in a 4-game sweep.

Kris Draper set an unofficial record of sorts. He is the first player to score a playoff with his teeth. *[Laughter]* Where is he? *[Laughter]* Those are beauties. *[Laughter]* But somebody said they wished he'd have kept his Chuck Norris beard. *[Laughter]*

Chris Chelios set a record when he played his 248th career playoff game. At 46 years old—or 46 years young—Chris is the oldest player to win the Stanley Cup, and the second-oldest player to play in the NHL. That guy is going to play a lot more. I mean, if he can do it age 46, why not 52 like Gordie Howe? *[Laughter]*

Put that in perspective, Chris's defensive partner, Brett Lebda, is 26 years old. As a kid, he rooted for Chris when he played for the Chicago Black Hawks. Hey, guys, imagine how cool this is: You grew up with a player as your idol, and then you got to play with him to win the Stanley Cup.

Particularly inspired by the story of Darren McCarty. Darren played 11 season with the Red Wings between 1993 and 2004, but he had a problem. He drank too much, and it brought his career to an early end. But Darren McCarty did not give up. Darren

* White House correction.

McCarty decided to do something about it. Last fall, he approached his friend, Kris Draper, told him he'd cleaned up his life, and he thought he had a little hockey left in him. So he plays for the Flint Generals in the IHL, works his way up to the Red Wings AHL affiliate, the Grand Rapids Griffins. And then in March, as the playoffs approached, Darren got a call from the Red Wings offering him a shot with the team.

This guy got his life back together, seized the moment, and scored the opening goal in game two of the series against Nashville. That is a stout story. And—where are you, Darren? Yes, congratulations to you.

One of the things that is really interesting about the Stanley Cup is that every player on the championship team gets to take the trophy home for a day. Red Wings players took the Cup on adventures across the world to Sweden, Finland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Russia. Coach Babcock took the Cup water skiing; slalom or two skies? [Laughter]

Anyway, several players had young relatives baptized with the Cup. Others let their children use it as a bowl for cereal, for ice cream, and donuts. Tomas Kopecky took it home to Slovakia and used it as a bowl for a special Slovakian broth. No telling what was in that special Slovakian broth. [Laughter]

Many Red Wings used their time with the Cup to lift the lives of others. Kris Draper took the Cup to Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. That must have been a joyous moment for them to see the Cup. Coach Babcock took it to visit the disabled residents of a Sherbrooke Community Center. Brian Rafalski took it to a Wisconsin veterans home.

Chris Osgood, Dan Cleary, Kris Draper, and Brett Lebda took the Cup to visit the troops at Michigan's Selfridge Air National Guard Base. And today Red Wings players took the Cup to visit wounded warriors at Walter Reed. As the Commander in Chief of a fabulous military, I thank you for honoring our troops.

There is a sign over the door of the Red Wings locker at Joe Louis Arena that reads this: "To whom much is given, much is expected." The Red Wings live up to those words on the ice and off the ice. And so I

congratulate the players, their wives/girlfriends, the coaches, all those who support the team; the unheralded heroes in the locker room that make sure the lives of these players is as comfortable as possible—the trainers, the laundry handlers, the equipment handlers. I congratulate you for achieving a dream that millions of kids dream about, including those in the room.

Thanks for bringing the Cup to the White House. Good luck for the rest of the season. May God bless you.

And now it is my honor to bring Captain Nick Lidstrom to the podium.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:37 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Christopher Ilitch, vice president, and Michael and Marian Ilitch, owners, Detroit Red Wings; Gary B. Bettman, commissioner, National Hockey League; Johan Franzen, right wing, Gordie Howe, former right wing, Kris Draper, center, Chris Chelios, defenseman, Brett Lebda, defenseman, Darren McCartney, right wing, Tomas Kopecky, right wing, Brian Rafalski, defenseman, Chris Osgood, goal tender, and Dan Cleary, right wing, Detroit Red Wings; and entertainer Chuck Norris. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Niklas Lidstrom, defenseman and team captain, Detroit Red Wings.

Statement on Signing the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008

October 14, 2008

Today I have signed into law H.R. 928, the "Inspector General Reform Act of 2008." The Act amends various authorities related to Federal Inspectors General.

Section 6 of the bill gives Inspectors General the right to obtain legal advice from lawyers working for an Inspector General. It is important that Inspectors General have timely and accurate legal advice. It is also important that agencies have structures through which to reach a single, final authoritative determination for the agency of what the law is. This determination is subject to the authority of the Attorney General with respect to legal questions within, and the President's authority to supervise, the executive branch and, of course, the courts in specific cases or controversies. To this end, the "rule of